

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims set forth below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A patient care system, comprising:

a plurality of medication administration devices for delivering medication to a plurality of patients;

a central processing unit (CPU) in communication with a subset of the plurality of medication administration devices and configured to monitor the subset of the plurality of medication administration devices and display results of the monitoring, the CPU further in communication with at least one peripheral equipment comprising a barcode reader, an infusion pump or a monitor for monitoring a patient's vital signs, the CPU configured to track a location of the at least one peripheral equipment in a hospital;

a memory associated with each medication administration device for storing medication administration information associated with the medication delivered to each patient, the medication administration information including a plurality of medication administration parameters and a parameter value associated with each medication administration parameter;

a central processor configured to receive medication administration information from each of the medication administration devices;

a central computer display connected to the central processor and configured to display a color coded display of status and schedule information for all drug administrations to the plurality of patients;

a database operatively connected to the central processor for storing medication administration guidelines representing acceptable values for the medication administration

parameters; and

means for communicating medication administration information from each of the medication administration devices to the central processor;

wherein the central processor is further configured to compare the parameter values to the acceptable values for the parameters in the medication administration guidelines; and

wherein the central processor is further configured to display a list of ongoing infusions to the plurality of patients;

wherein the central processor and the CPU are communicatively coupled via a local area network.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The patient care system of claim 2, wherein the central processor is further configured to provide a visual indication on the central computer display if one of the parameter values does not fall within the acceptable values for the parameter in the corresponding medication administration guideline.

4. (Original) The patient care system of claim 2, wherein the central computer display is located in a pharmacy.

5. (Original) The patient care system of claim 3, further comprising:
means for a clinician to adjust the medication administration parameter values in response to the visual indication.

6. (Original) The patient care system of claim 5, further comprising:
means for the clinician to report to a caregiver at the point of care the adjusted medication administration parameter values.

7. (Original) The patient care system of claim 1, wherein the central processor is

further configured to automatically adjust the medication administration parameter values in response to an indication that one of the parameter values does not fall within the acceptable values for the parameter in the corresponding medication administration guideline.

8. (Original) The patient care system of claim 1, wherein the central processor periodically compares the parameter values to the acceptable values for the parameters in the medication administration guidelines throughout the administration of the medication.

9. (Original) The patient care system of claim 2, further comprising:
means for communication between a caregiver located at one of the medication administration devices and a clinician located at the central computer display.

10. (Original) The patient care system of claim 1, wherein the medication administration parameters include current medication administration device operating parameters.

11. (Original) The patient care system of claim 1, wherein the medication administration guidelines include the acceptable values for the medication administration parameters based on patient condition data.

12. (Original) The patient care system of claim 11, further comprising:
a memory operatively connected to the central processor for storing patient condition data associated with each patient;

wherein the processor is further configured to compare the parameter values to the acceptable values for the parameters in the medication administration guidelines corresponding to the stored patient condition data associated with each patient.

13. (Original) The patient care system of claim 12, wherein the patient condition data for each patient includes current physiological status.

14. (Original) The patient care system of claim 1, wherein the medication administration guidelines include the acceptable values for the medication administration parameters based on medication indication data.

15. (Original) The patient care system of claim 1, further comprising:
a memory in which is stored medication order information for a plurality of patients, the medication order information including a plurality of prescribed medication administration parameters for delivering medication to each patient and a parameter value associated with each prescribed medication administration parameter; and

wherein the processor is further configured to compare the parameter values of the prescribed medication administration parameters to the acceptable values for the medication administration parameters in the medication administration guidelines.

16. (Original) The patient care system of claim 15, further comprising a central computer display operatively connected to the central processor and wherein the central processor is further configured to display the medication order information and the medication administration information on the central computer display.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for centralized monitoring of medication administration for a plurality of patients, comprising:

monitoring medication administration information associated with medication delivered to each patient, the medication administration information including a plurality of medication administration parameters and a parameter value associated with each medication administration parameter;

storing a database of medication administration guidelines representing acceptable values for the medication administration parameters;

communicating the medication administration information and the medication administration guidelines to a central location;

comparing, on a computer at the central location, the parameter values to the acceptable values for the parameters in the medication administration guidelines, said acceptable values comprising a soft limit and a hard limit;

operating a medication administration device by issuing an alarm if one of said parameter values contravenes its corresponding hard limit; ~~and~~

providing, using the computer at the central location, a visual indication on a computer display at the central location if one of the parameter values contravenes its corresponding soft limit in the medication administration guideline; and

requiring an acknowledgment from a user before operating the medication administration device using a medical administration parameter contravening a corresponding soft limit.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

displaying the medication administration information on the computer display at the central location.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein providing an indication at the central location includes displaying an alert on the computer display.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

adjusting the medication administration parameter values from the central location in response to the indication.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

communicating information from the central location to a care-giver located at the point of care.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

periodically comparing the parameter values to the acceptable values for the parameters in the medication administration guidelines throughout the administration.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the medication administration

guidelines include the acceptable values for the medication administration parameters based on patient condition data.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the medication administration

guidelines include the acceptable values for the medication administration parameters based on medication indication data.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of administering

medication to a patient in a hospital, the method comprising:

reviewing, at a pharmacy computer, a medication order prescribed by a physician;

checking, at the pharmacy computer, the medication order for incompatibilities with the patient's record;

transferring the medication order to a nursing station following the checking for incompatibilities;

programming a clinical device connected to the patient and communicatively coupled with the pharmacy computer with medication delivery parameters;

verifying, at the pharmacy computer, the medication delivery parameters; and

if the verification passes, then administering the medication order to the patient using the clinical device according to the verified medication delivery parameters; and

if the verification fails, then

sounding an alarm at the pharmacy computer;

allowing a user to correct or override, in real-time, the medication delivery parameters; and

administering the medication order to the patient using the clinical device according to the corrected or overridden medical delivery parameters.

26. (Cancelled)